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*HAPLOMYLOMYS*, A NEW SUBGENUS OF *PEROMYSCUS*.

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The genus *Peromyscus*, as at present recognized, contains a larger number of species than any other North American genus of mammals. It has a comparatively wide range, and, although subject to numerous minor variations, preserves its essential characters with remarkable uniformity. Thus far only two subgeneric names have been proposed for subordinate groups within the genus—*Baiomys*, erected by True in 1894\* for the tiny species *P. taylori*, and *Megadontomys*, proposed by Merriam in 1898† for the largest species of the genus *P. thomasi*. Both of these are well characterized, but represent aberrant types rather than assemblages of species. *Baiomys* contains only two well-marked species (each possibly divisible into several subspecies) and *Megadontomys* is represented by only the type species and two closely related forms. All the other species are at present retained in

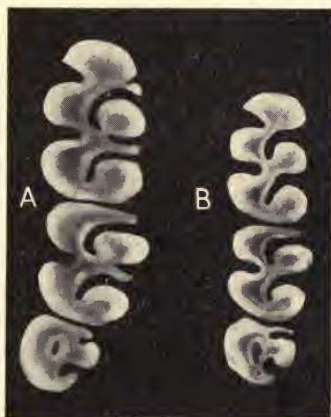


FIG. 1.—A. Upper molars of *Peromyscus* (*Peromyscus*) *felipensis*. B. Upper molars of *Peromyscus* (*Haplomylomys*) *californicus*. (About  $\times 9\frac{1}{2}$ ).

\* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, p. 758, 1894.

† Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XII, pp. 115-116, April 30, 1898; see also Bangs, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XXXIX, p. 27, 1902, where *Megadontomys* is given generic rank.

the restricted genus *Peromyscus*, typified by the common *P. leucopus* of the eastern United States.

A small group containing two well-known species and numerous subspecies found in the arid and semi-arid regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico seems also worthy of subgeneric recognition. Although not differing as a group in any external characters that are diagnostic, it is sharply defined by peculiarities of the molar teeth, which are so constant and, comparatively speaking, so pronounced as to be of considerable significance.

The important forms of this group are *P. eremicus* and *P. californicus*, characterized by a less complex tuberculation of the molar teeth than in *Peromyscus* proper or in *Megadontomys*. In the ordinary type of *Peromyscus* there is a small accessory tubercle between the primary outer tubercles of the first and second upper molars. In unworn teeth these tiny tubercles are scarcely noticeable, except as viewed in profile. When the crowns of the molars become worn, however, they appear as narrow enamel loops with closely appressed sides, lying between the more or less open primary loops. These small tubercles are not present in the group heretofore loosely called the 'eremicus' group. They are also absent in *Baiomys*, which, however, is otherwise peculiar. They are developed to various degrees in various species, in some being difficult to observe, except in teeth that have been subjected to considerable wear. Apparently they are least prominent in *P. crinitus* and its close allies.

The appearance of partly worn teeth is shown in the accompanying reproduction of photographs of actual specimens. For purposes of illustration, two of the larger species were selected. In essential characters their teeth do not differ from those of the type species of their respective groups.

The new subgenus may be characterized as follows:

#### **Haplomyiomys** subgen. nov.

*Type*.—*Peromyscus eremicus* (Baird), from Fort Yuma, California.

*Characters*.—Size medium or small; pelage usually very soft and silky; tail longer than head and body, subterete, rather thinly haired; soles of hind feet naked (at least in median line) to calcaneum, 6-tuberculate and paved with minute imbricate scales; skull with cranium rather large and rostral region relatively weak; first and second upper molars with three salient and two reëntrant outer angles at all stages of wear; small secondary tubercles never present between outer primary tubercles; lower molars correspondingly simple.